

T-734

John H. H. Wales House
St. Michaels
Private

c. 1911

The John H. H. Wales house appears at first to be a nineteenth century two-story dwelling built in a traditional manner with a stepped profile and a wraparound turned post porch. However, an Easton, Star-Democrat newspaper item mentions the construction of a new house on this site in 1910-1911. The partially glazed doors and the single pane sash windows point to this later date. Evidently an older house on this site, designated on the 1877 St. Michaels map, was either destroyed by fire or torn down. With its period features essentially intact, the house adds to the nineteenth character of East Chestnut Street.

The construction of this house is dated by an entry in Easton's Star-Democrat issue of April 22, 1911. On that day the paper noted that, "Squire John H. H. Wales has nearly finished his new house facing Water Street on Chestnut." John H. H. Wales had inherited the town lot in 1896 from his father John H. Wales, who had purchased a house and lot in 1874 for \$800. The relatively large transfer amount in 1874 suggests the property was improved at that time. It is not certain what happened to the former house.

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. T-734

Magi No.

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic JOHN H. H. WALES HOUSE

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 206 East Chestnut Street ☐ not for publicationcity, town St. Michaels ☐ vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Talbot

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name

street & number telephone no.:

city, town state and zip code

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Talbot County Clerk of Court liber 269

street & number Talbot County Courthouse folio 497

city, town Easton state Md 21601

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

postitory for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. T-734

Condition

☒ excellent
☒ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The John H. H. Wales house stands at 206 East Chestnut Street in the center of St. Michaels, Talbot County, Maryland. The two-story, two-part stepped house faces north with the principal gable roof oriented on an east/west axis.

Built in 1910-11, the two-story, two-bay main block is extended to the east by a slightly shorter two-story, two-bay wing, and a single story turned post porch stretches across the entire first floor. Decorative corner brackets embellish the turned porch posts. Supported by a low brick foundation, the house is sheathed with plain weatherboard siding, and it is covered by a medium pitched asphalt shingle roof.

The north (main) elevation is an asymmetrical two-part facade with the partially glazed front door flanked by a single-pane sash window hung with louvered shutters. A pair of single-pane sash windows, also hung with shutters light the second floor of the main block as well as the shorter two-story wing. Interior end brick stacks rise through the outside gable ends of both sections.

The interior was not seen.

8. Significance

Survey No. T-734

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates	Builder/Architect
1911	

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D
and/or
Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G
Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The John H. Wales house appears to be a nineteenth century two-story dwelling built in a traditional manner with a stepped profile and a wraparound turned post porch. However, a Easton Star-Democrat news item mentions the construction of a new house on this site in 1910-1911. The partially glazed doors and the single-pane sash windows point to this later date. Evidently an older house on this site, designated on the 1877 St. Michaels map, was either destroyed by fire or torn down. With its period features essentially intact, the house adds to the nineteenth century character of East Chestnut Street.

HISTORY AND SUPPORT

The construction of this house is dated by an entry in Easton's Star-Democrat issue of April 22, 1911. On that day the paper noted that, "Squire John H. H. Wales (sic) has nearly finished his new house facing Water Street on Chestnut." John H. ^{Wales} ~~W~~ Wales inherited the town lot in 1896 from his father, John H. Wales, (Will Book, 17/169) who had purchased a house and lot in 1874 for \$800. (79/512) The relatively large transfer amount in 1874 suggests the property was improved at the time. It is not certain what happened to the earlier dwelling.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. T-734

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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D

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E

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F

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Paul B. Touart Architectural Historian

organization Historic St. Michaels-Bay Hund. date 11/15/89

street & number telephone

city or town St. Michaels state MD 21663

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

John H. H. Wales House

206 EAST CHESTNUT STREET

YEAR: 1946 VOL: 269 PAGE: 497

FROM: John H. W. Wales and Mary A. Wales

TO : William P. Wales and Margaret S. Wales.

NOTES: For L & A. Same description.

"One of the lots" conveyed to John H. W. Wales and Mary A. Wales by Ruth R. Startt 1946, 268/523 (parcel 2).

YEAR: 1946 VOL: 268 PAGE: 523

FROM: Ruth R. Startt

TO : John H. W. Wales and Mary A. Wales

NOTES: There were 3 parcels. This is number 2. Same description.

Devised to John H. W. Wales by John H. Wales 1896, 17/169 (Will). Irene Wales was alive tenant.

Conveyed to Ruth R. Startt by John H. W. Wales and Mary A. Wales, 268/521 (Clearance)

Conveyed to John H. Wales by Thomas H. Fairbank 1874, 79/512

YEAR: 1874 VOL: 79 PAGE: 512

FROM: Thomas H. Fairbank and Amanda Fairbank

TO : John H. Wales

NOTES: \$800. Same description.

The Easton Star-Democrat for April 22, 1911 has the following: "Squire J. H. H. Wales has nearly finished his new house facing Water Street on Chestnut".

YEAR: 1867 VOL: 74 PAGE: 394

FROM: Charles W. Willey and Susan A. Willey

TO : Thomas H. Fairbank

NOTES: \$100. Same dimensions but between Rachel Smith and Charles Willey.

No record of how Charles Willey acquired this lot was found. In 1850 (63/30), Joseph Sewell had bought 160 feet "from Robert Dawson to Joseph Newnam" from Masey Sewell. The 160 feet from Dawson includes 30 feet of the lot here sold to Fairbank.

In 1859 (68/381), Joseph Sewell sold 60 feet beginning at Tarr (formerly Dawson) to James Sewell.

In 1860 (68/567), James Sewell sold the same 60 feet to Charles Willey.

Also in 1860 (68/691), Joseph Sewell sold a "half town lot" (30 feet ?) location not specified - to Charles Willey thus making a total of 90 feet now owned by Willey; however, Willey would have had to acquire 190 feet of land on Chestnut Street to reach the Rachel Smith lot from Tarr-Dawson. Transactions showing how Willey acquired the land sold to Fairbank have not been found.

YEAR: 1850 VOL: 63 PAGE: 30

FROM: Masey Sewell [Mary (Dorgan) Sewell]

TO : Joseph Sewell and Susan Ann Welby

NOTES: Begins at E corner of Robert Dawson; run E 160 feet to a lot of Joseph Newnam; SE 125 feet to Nathan Harrington; with Harrington 160 feet to Dawson; then to the beginning.

The 160 feet only includes 1/2 of the Wales lot. Joseph Newnam has not been found in the land records - he may have been a short-term renter.

Masey Sewell was the wife of Mark Sewell and a daughter of John Dorgan. This could have been the source of ownership of these lots.

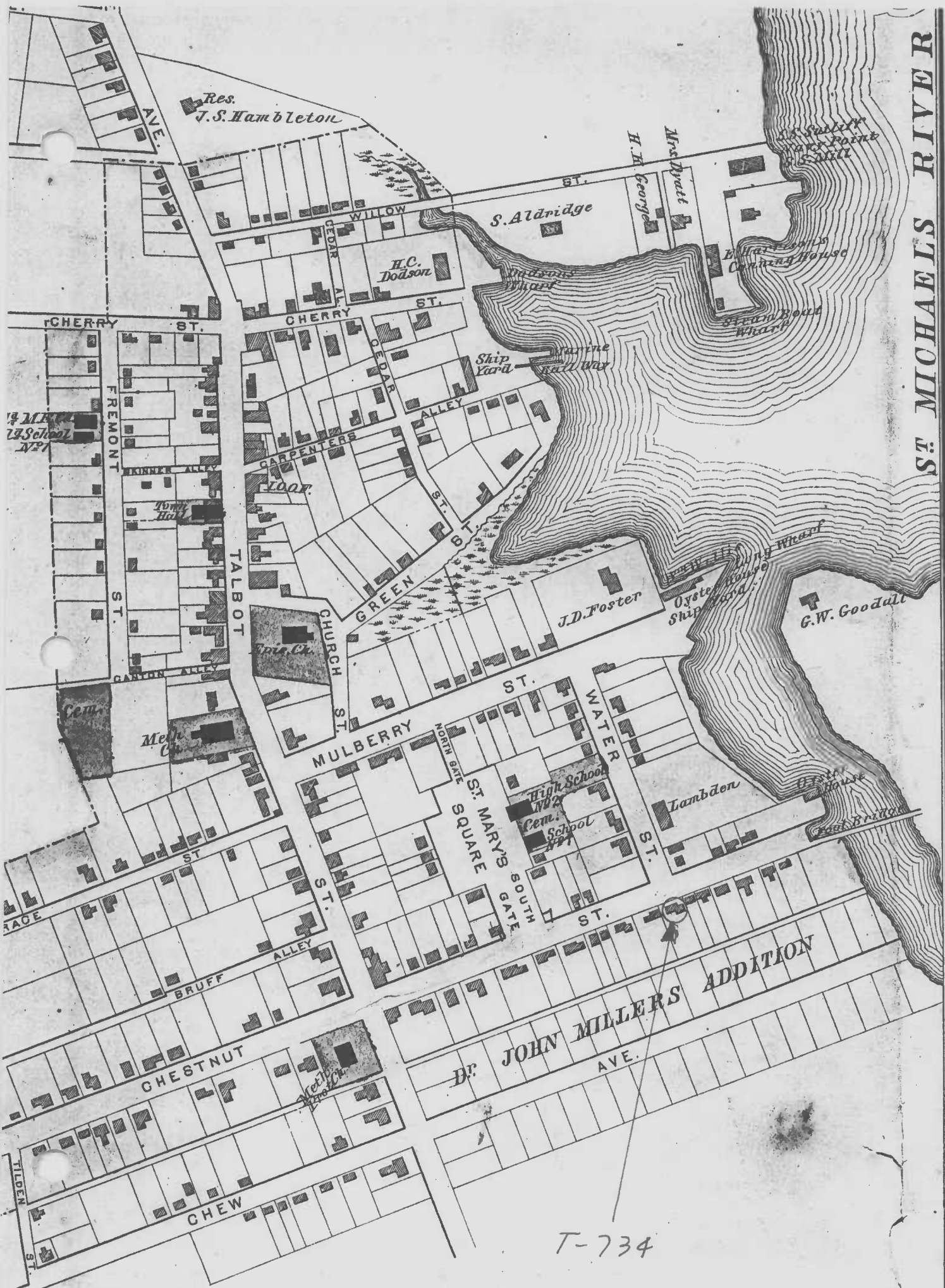
The next previous owner of record is John Dorgan. He died in 1830 and left four children who presumably inherited the lots on East Chestnut Street.

In 1848, 61/451 the Dorgan heirs sold a 50-acre tract contiguous to the town boundary to Nathan Harrington and James Benson. Although this tract did NOT include the town lots on Chestnut Street, several were sold by Harrington and Benson apparently without the knowledge of the Dorgan heirs.

The May 18, 1882 Easton Ledger contains a notice of a series of "ejectment suits" filed by the Dorgan heirs against the then owners of the lots. There is no local record of a trial and nothing seems to have evolved to affect the defendants. (Copy attached)

John Dorgan had owned the lots since 1813.

ST MICHAELS RIVER



T-734





T-734

JOHN H. ~~W~~. WALES HOUSE

St. Michaels, Talbot Co., MD

Northwest elevation

11/89, Paul Touart, photographer

Negative/MD Historical Trust